

REMARKS

In the February 22, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-8, 10-12, 14 and 16-27 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 20-22, 24 and 26 have been amended herein. Thus, claims 1-8, 10-12, 14 and 16-27 are pending for consideration, which is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

On page 3, item 4, the Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-12, 14 and 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. (U.S. 6,134,340) in view of Mainguet (U.S. 6,289,114). On page 9, item 5, the Office Action rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. in view of Mainguet and Morita et al. (U.S. 4,827,527).

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting an Interview for this case on June 10, 2008. During the Interview, the Examiner suggested that the cited art could be overcome by amending the independent claims to emphasize that the authentication can be performed by using less than the entire image (see June 10, 2008 Interview Summary). Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims herein to emphasize such a feature. Therefore, it is submitted that the claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. For example, claim 1 recites "authenticating the identification object person using sampled partial images forming less than an entire image of the portion of the organism sampled in said sampling (last two lines). Applicants submit that Hsu and Mainguet, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose such a feature. In addition, Applicants submit that Morita fails to cure the deficiencies of Hsu and Mainguet.

Independent claims 20-22, 24 and 26 emphasize "using sampled partial images forming less than an entire image of the portion of the organism," and therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited art. The remaining dependent claims inherit the patentable recitations of their respective base claims, and therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited art.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/705,455

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 8/22/08

By: Richard A. Gollhofer
Richard A. Gollhofer
Registration No. 31,106

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501